

P O R T O F S U N D E R L A N D.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

PRESENTED TO THE

P O R T H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y

BY

A. STUART HEBBLETHWAITE,
M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for the Port and Borough of Sunderland.

S U N D E R L A N D P O R T H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y

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(Councillor W. L. Milburn).

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

A. Stuart Hebblethwaite, M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR:

E. Cooper, Cert. R.S.I.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR:

C. Pickering, Cert. R.S.I.

OFFICIAL RAT CATCHER:

C.R. Hicks, (Temporary).

Meetings:- Monthly, on the Wednesday in the second week preceding that in which the Council meets, at 2-45 p.m.

Offices of Medical Officer of Health and Port Health Inspector

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} 27, Fawcett Street.

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S U N D E R L A N D
P O R T H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E
Y E A R E N D E D D E C E M B E R 3 1 s t , 1 9 4 3 .

T O T H E M A Y O R , A L D E R M E N A N D C O U N C I L L O R S O F T H I S C O U N T Y
B O R O U G H O F S U N D E R L A N D A C T I N G A S T H E P O R T H E A L T H
A U T H O R I T Y O F T H E P O R T O F S U N D E R L A N D .

This report is again in an abbreviated form compared with those of previous years, in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health as outlined in their Circular No. 1937; permanent arrangements which have been fully presented in previous Annual Reports have been omitted if they have remained unaltered, and certain tables have been either left out altogether or curtailed. Tables dealing with the number of ships arriving and departing are also excluded.

During the year 3 cases of infectious disease, viz., Malaria 1; Scarlet Fever 1; and Tuberculosis 1, were found to exist on vessels entering the Port. No case of infectious disease spread from the Port to the Borough.

Work under articles 19-21 of the Port Sanitary (Deratification of Ships) Regulations 1933, has resulted in 71 certificates for "Deratification" and Deratification "Exemption" being issued, compared with 70 issued last year.

During the year your Port Medical Officer was called out and visited 22 ships at the Docks and River.

Circular No. 2641 (Louse Borne Typhus)

In accordance with the above named Circular, medical inspection of crews on arrival from European and African ports has been carried out on board of eight vessels.

The work of the Port Health Inspectors has been maintained at a very high standard of efficiency.

I wish to record my thanks for the valuable assistance given by H.M. Collector of Customs and his staff, also the officials of the River Wear Commissioners, Board of Trade Surveyors, Pilots and Shipping Agents who have so willingly co-operated with the Port Health Authority.

A. S. HEBBLETHWAITE.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Health Office,
Athenacum Buildings,
27, Fawcett Street,
Sunderland.
February, 1944.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

During the past year 6 samples from the water boats were submitted to the Municipal Bacteriologist; the results of the examination are summarised in the following table:-

1943

Source	Number of samples	Class 1.	Class 2.	Class 3.	Class 4.
Water boats	6	5	1	---	---
Hydrants	---	---	---	---	---
Total....	6	5	1	---	---

Class 1. A water containing no B. Coli in 100 cc. of water SATISFACTORY
Class 2. B. Coli test positive in 100 cc. negative in 10 cc....DOUBTFUL
Class 3. B. Coli test positive in 10 cc. negative in 1 cc. UNSATISFACTORY
Class 4. B. Coli test positive in 1 cc. or lessBAD

ARTICLE 16 (PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS)

1933

Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the past year in applying the provisions of Article 16 relating to unauthorised persons boarding vessels before they are free from control under the above-mentioned Regulations. This matter is being dealt with officially.

T A B L E C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of cases during 1943.		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Malaria	---	1	1
Scarlet Fever	---	1	1
Tuberculosis	---	1	1
Total ...	---	3	3

T A B L E D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels
during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of cases during 1943.		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Malaria	---	1	1
Total	---	1	1

OTHER CASES OF SICKNESS ETC., INVESTIGATED.

In addition to the cases of infectious diseases tabulated, 129 cases of non-infectious sickness, etc., occurring during the voyage or on arrival and during stay in port, were investigated by the Port Health Inspectors. These included 80 cases of non-infectious sickness, 16 cases of injuries, 25 cases of venereal disease and 8 deaths. Of the deaths reported, 4 were due to drowning, 2 to fatal injuries and 2 to natural causes.

S.S. "BARON BILLHAVEN" from Halifax (N.S.) - London.
Outbreak of Influenza.

This vessel arrived 10th August 1943 to undergo extensive repairs. On November 8th the Master reported several cases of illness among the native crew. The vessel was visited and a medical inspection of the crew was carried out, four members of which were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for observation and treatment. The following day, more cases of illness were reported to the Port Health Office. The vessel was again visited and a further eight cases were removed to hospital. Three other members of the crew were treated on board for catarrhal affections. No further cases occurred during the vessel's stay in port.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Number of Seamen treated at the V.D. Clinic during 1943.

British	Total	Foreign	Total
Syph. & Soft Chancre.....	---	Syph. & Soft Chancre	---
Soft Chancre & Gonorrhoea..	---	Soft Chancre & Gonorrhoea ..	---
Syphilis	33	Syphilis	27
Soft Chancre.	3	Soft Chancre .	2
Syph. & Gono.	1	Syph. & Gono .	3
Gonorrhoea ..	43	Gonorrhoea ...	18
Non-Venereal Disease	29	Non-Venereal Disease	13
Total...	109	Total..	63

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS.

1930

No parrots or budgerigars came under observation during the past year.

DANGEROUS DRUGS (NO. 3) REGULATIONS, 1923.

No application for a Certificate to procure drugs under the provisions of the above-named Regulations was granted during the past year.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

604 visits have been paid to vessels in connection with the work of rat destruction during the past year, compared with 511 for the corresponding period of 1942. Rat destruction was carried out on board 42 vessels as against 26 vessels in 1942, resulting in the destruction of 657 rats compared with 396 for the previous year. 1675 rats were destroyed, principally by trapping, at warehouses, wharves and industrial premises on the river and docks, compared with 1753 for 1942, making a total of 2332 for 1943 as compared with 2149 for the previous year.

In addition, 3085 poison baits, compared with 4140 for the preceding year, were laid at various points where trapping was considered futile, the result of which cannot be properly estimated. No rats have been submitted for bacteriological examination during the past year.

The total number of visits paid to vessels and premises during 1943, for the purpose of rat destruction was 2509 compared with 2255 for 1942.

RAT PROOFING.

The warehouses at the Docks and on the river continue to be well maintained as regards protection from rats.

It is interesting to note that since the Port of Sunderland was approved by the Ministry of Health in January 1929, for the issue of "Deratation" and Deratation "Exemption" Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, 1730 such certificates have been issued for which fees amounting to the sum of £3563. 2. 6d. have been collected.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1943.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of rats	657
" examined	Nil
Infected with Plague	Nil

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves
and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	1675
" Examined	Nil
Infected with Plague	Nil

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Vessels from
Plague infected ports arriving
in the Port during the year.

Total Number of such vessels arriving.	Number of such vessels Fumigated by S.O ₂ .	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels Fumigated By H.C.N.	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels on which Trapping, Poisoning, etc were employed.	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels on which measures of Rat Destruk- tion were not carried out.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
* 14	1	NIL	3	185	NIL	NIL	10

* Including Vessels known to have called at Infected Ports during the Voyage.

TABLE H. *

"Deratistation" Certificates and Deratistation
"Exemption" Certificates issued during
the year.

No. of ships	No. of Deratistation Certificates issued.				Total Deratistation Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certi-ficates Issued.		
	After fumigation with H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. & Sulphur	After Trapping, Poisoning etc.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Totals.	71	21	1	NIL	1	23	48	71

* Applicable only to those ports approved by the Ministry of Health for the issue of "Deratistation" Certificates and Deratistation "Exemption" Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port II).

HYGIENE OF CREWS SPACES.

TABLE 1.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin, and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British...	275	208
Other Nationalities.	48	28

The above table is a classification of the nuisances and defects found to exist on board the vessels inspected during the past year. Of this number, 120 or 9.1% were found to have one or more nuisances or sanitary defects, composed for the most part of dirty or verminous quarters, foul W.C's, bilges, peak and ballast tanks, defective port lights, defective stoves and fittings, leaky decks, defective W.C's, doors, etc. With the exception of 3 vessels which left the port before the necessary work was completed, all the nuisances and defects were remedied, suggestive that the work is carried out with a minimum of friction.

V1. FOOD INSPECTION.

The Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1937.
The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.
The Public Health (Preservatives, &c, in Food) Regu-
lations, 1925 to 1940, and the Public Health
(Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

In accordance with the powers contained in those Regulations relating to the inspection of Foods arriving from foreign and home ports, the provisions have been carried out in so far as they concern the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. With regard to the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives etc, in Food) Regulations 1925 to 1940, it has not been found necessary to take any action. Samples are regularly taken by the examining Officer of Customs in compliance with the above named Regulations.

27 visits have been paid to ships, wharves and warehouses on the River and at the Docks for the purpose of inspecting consignments of foodstuffs.

The undermentioned quantities of food-stuffs (ships' Stores) were found to be unfit for human consumption and were turned over to the Ministry of Food for salvage, viz:-

240 lbs. beef.
257 lbs. mutton.
300 lbs. pork.
343 lbs. offal.
40 lbs. cooking fats.

SHELL FISH.

The Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934, came into operation on January 1st 1935. The Regulations refer to the gathering and selling for human consumption of shell fish which may be infected. There are no layings, private or public, within the jurisdiction of this Authority.
